



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LOS ALTOS DECLARES LOCAL EMERGENCY REGARDING CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

Los Altos, Calif. – March 12, 2020 – City Manager, Chris Jordan, has issued a declaration of a local emergency in Los Altos in response to the global outbreak and spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). This is a proactive step that will allow the City to better prepare and coordinate emergency resources in the event of the virus’ potential spread in our community.

The emergency proclamation was signed today by City Manager, Chris Jordan, in accordance with the City’s Municipal Code, Ordinance No. 2018-443 on Disaster Council and City Emergency Organization.

The City has already taken active steps to slow the potential spread of COVID-19 in the Los Altos community by postponing agenda items that are not time-sensitive, cancelling programs for senior citizens, all non-essential travel by City staff and all City-sponsored events likely to result in a mass gathering. With the current situation evolving, additional cancellations and postponements of events and meetings will be executed accordingly.

The City is continuing to closely monitor direction from the Santa Clara County Public Health Department, will follow guidance for the health and safety of the Los Altos community and City staff.

Attachment: Signed Local Emergency Proclamation

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CITY OF LOS ALTOS

PROCLAMATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, City of Los Altos Municipal Code Section 2.28.080 empowers the City Manager to proclaim the existence or threatened existence of a local emergency when said the City is affected or likely to be affected by a public calamity and the City Council is not in session, and;

WHEREAS, A novel coronavirus (Named COVID-19) was first detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China in December 2019; and

WHEREAS, On January 30, 2020 the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the COVID-19 outbreak a Public Health Emergency of International Concern. On January 31, 2020 the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services declared a Public Health Emergency; and

WHEREAS, On February 10, 2020, the County of Santa Clara declared a local health emergency and proclaimed a local emergency; and

WHEREAS, On March 9, 2020 the County of Santa Clara Public Health Department took steps to protect the health of the community by issuing an order cancelling all mass gatherings of over 1,000 people and additional recommendations to slow the spread of the virus, reduce the number of people infected, and, especially, to protect those who are most vulnerable to severe illness; and

WHEREAS, On March 11, 2020 the WHO made the assessment that COVID-19 can be characterized as a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, The City of Los Altos been responsive and proactive. The City has cancelled programs for senior citizens, postponed agenda items that are not time-sensitive, cancelled all non-essential travel by City staff and all City-sponsored events likely to result in a possible mass gathering while this crisis continues; and

WHEREAS, the Director of Emergency Services (the City Manager) of the City of Los Altos does hereby find:

1. That conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property have arisen caused by COVID-19.
2. These conditions are or are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of said City, and;
3. That the City Council of the City of Los Altos is not in session and cannot immediately be called into session;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED that a local emergency now exists throughout Los Altos; and

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that during the existence of said local emergency the powers, functions, and duties of the emergency organization of this City shall be those prescribed by state law, by ordinances, and resolutions of this City; and

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that this emergency proclamation shall expire in 7 days after issuance unless confirmed and ratified by the governing body of the City of Los Altos. Once confirmed and ratified, this emergency proclamation will be reviewed by the governing body of the City of Los Altos to determine the need for continuing the emergency declaration at least once every sixty (60) days until the emergency is terminated

Dated: March 12, 2020

By: 
Chris Jordan
City Manager